

Chap. 481.

AN ACT to provide for the display of the United States flag on the schoolhouses of the state, in connection with the public schools; and to encourage patriotic exercises in such schools.

Became a law April 22, 1898, with the approval of the Governor.

Passed, three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

§ 1. It shall be the duty of the school authorities of every public school in the several cities and school districts of the state to purchase a United States flag, flagstaff and the necessary appliances therefor, and to display such flag upon or near the public school building during school hours, and at such other times as such school authorities may direct.

Purchase
and
display of
flag.

§ 2. The said school authorities shall establish rules and regulations for the proper custody, care and display of the flag, and when the weather will not permit it to be otherwise displayed, it shall be placed conspicuously in the principal room in the school-house.

Rules and
regulations.

§ 3. It shall be the duty of the state superintendent of public instruction to prepare, for the use of the public schools of the state, a program providing for a salute to the flag at the opening of each day of school and such other patriotic exercises as may be deemed by him to be expedient, under such regulations and instructions as may best meet the varied requirements of the different grades in such schools. It shall also be his duty to make special provision for the observance in such public schools of Lincoln's birthday, Washington's birthday, Memorial day and Flag day, and such other legal holidays of like character as may be hereafter designated by law.

Patriotic
exercises.

§ 4. The state superintendent of public instruction is hereby authorized to provide for the necessary expenses incurred in developing and encouraging such patriotic exercises in the public school.

Provision
for observ-
ance of
holidays.

Expenses
in develop-
ing, etc., of
exercises.

§ 5. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize military instruction or drill in the public schools during school hours.

Proviso as
to military
drill, etc.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately.